/195 cont./

122 man who had just returned from the Arctic Ocean. Most of the visitors appeared with gifts, of which, however, we accepted only just what we needed, for /196/ appropriate compensation, of course. One of the visitors brought a reindeer and received for it generous payment in cash, which he apparently had not counted on, for he became very embarrassed and finally explained that in this case he wished to exchange the animal given for a larger and fatter one, which, of course we could not oppose.

On the day after our arrival the clergyman from Bulún, Nikolai Ssljepzów, also visited us, and we spent a very pleasant evening with him. He told us a great deal about his travel adventures on the tundra, which he frequently had to cross. The dangers for the intrepid traveler are great -- not the least is the danger of getting lost. Once, just when his traveling companion had gone off, the clergyman was suddenly thrown out of the narte by the dogs, suddenly excited at the sight of a wolf, and he was saved only by the intelligence of the lead-dog who forced the rest of the team to circle the place of the accident closer and closer until he had again found his master and brought the dogs to a standstill near him. He would have been hopelessly lost, without any food, without a compass, hundreds of versts from any settlement. Our guest was also able to give some much desired information about the natural products of the parts of the country traversed by him, and Czekanowsky was particularly pleased by the accounts concerning several sources of petrifactions along the
[136] Lena and the shore of the Arctic Ocean; the clergyman even claimed to have frequently seen ammonites, which we could show him in illustrations. Encouraged by us, he promised henceforth to collect natural products himself, as much as he could, for which we gave him a short course of instruction and asked him to send his eventual collection to the Siberian Section of /197/ the Imperial Geographical Society in Irkutsk. On the next day he sent us a young shark which he himself had caught near Bulún, that is, in the river.

● 632 Bulún, as I have said several times, is at present the capital
[103] of an entire district, or, as one says here, ulússes /ulus/, which, however, is still named after the former capital Shigánsk /Zhigansk/.
[226] On the maps the latter is even designated as a town, but it is now
[439] practically abandoned. Bulún, which lies only about 120 versts

/197 cont./

632 from the Arctic Ocean, owes its present importance less to the rich
[226] fishing, which could be made useful for the more southerly regions
[439] only by the establishment of a steamship company like the one on the Jenissei /Yenisei/, and more to the trade in arctic foxes and in particular in mammoth tusks, which are collected here from the entire region and then taken to the European market by
[136] way of Jakutsk /Yakutsk/ and Irkutsk. Fossil ivory is found throughout northern Siberia, although the richest sources are supposed to be the New Siberian Islands in the Arctic Ocean, but the trip there across the frozen ocean involves great difficulties and dangers, and we were even told that the government had prohibited trading trips there after a party of ivory-seekers perished on one.

161 According to the more detailed reports gathered by
131 Czekanowsky on his second stay in Bulún, the population of the entire ulússes consists of 2,293 souls, 770 of whom are counted on the stretches of the Lena lying within the forest region, 30 in the forest region along the Olenék, while about 550 live on the timber line itself between the Lena and Anábara, and /198/ over 900 live on the tundra, and, in particular, on the islands at the
131 mouth of the Lena and the Olenék. These people, consisting of
177 Jakuten /Yakut/, or rather Jakutized Tungus, are cut off on all sides from intercourse with other human beings by broad, barren stretches scarcely traversed by a hunter, certainly to their advantage -- I have spoken above, in the description of our sojourn in Boljkalák, of the inhabitants' purity of morals -- may it be preserved here a very long time and may more active intercourse and the cultural advance connected with it exert only a whole-
426 some influence on these upright primitive people. Up to now --
273 at least so we were assured -- the natives strictly guard against running into debt with the merchants, and liquor, this plague advancing in the train of civilization and so corrupting for all primitive peoples, seems to be relatively not very widespread
273 here. I must mention here that the government does not permit, or at least permits only under great limitations, the sale of spirits to the native tribes of Siberia, as well as to the workers at the gold washings, but, in view of the immense tracts of land to be